

Dublin, Sunday, Jan. 28. 1855

Dear Mrs Chapman - You will see by the
A. S. Advocate for February which I send you
herewith, how much of our attention is taken
up, as to Anti Slavery matters, by George
Thompson's equivocal course at the late
London Conference, very nearly 5 pages of
this number being devoted to the point.

Having always felt warmly & kindly & even
gratefully to S. T. - having seen how very
different with him - I finally admiring the
general bearing of his anti Slavery work,
I would have abstained from all comment if
I could honestly do so. But to give any thing
like a fair account of the conference I must
put in the full speech of the Rev. Pillsbury,
Bishop & James, and the letters of Mr. Bishop
& Mrs. Moore; and I must remark that
I had no access to the "flowing tribute" beyond
the notice in the Empire - or else I would
have printed it too. Though very little was
said on all this, a great deal was implied
as to S. T. But could I help this? He did
Mr. Thompson were anxious that no word
should be said about him that could be
helped & that if any plans were desired
from what we did not say, they could best
be avoided. G. T. saw it all quickly
enough. Hence his speech printed in the
Empire, and sent to me 6 weeks after it
was said to have been spoken - hence the
Chapman pamphlet which reached me the
day after - and hence in another day or

two his own Defense. Being determined that
he should have no complacent to make of
being considered as ahead, I printed them
all. My own remarks on the Speech I on
his defense you will see in the Advocate,
how scrupulously I confine myself to
showing that I must in common honesty
do as I had done & that no man is freed
by any part leaving from the liability to
criticism or his acts or deficiencies of
conduct.

The very "delicate" he often
referred to by me in the preceding advocates
told me without hesitation that S. T. I could
at the London Conference embodied the
idea of a desire to concentrate the new
Brooklyn Committee - that his conduct was
quite remarkable - & that although he
may have said some such words as are in
the speech - he paid no glowing tributes
I made no long speech to that effect. I
heard presently the same as to the glowing
tributes from the Rev. Mr. James. - I should
like you that I sent my article to Bristol-
Pillsbury wrote me word that I was as
gentle on Thompson as a sucking dove -
that I did not stand enough to my own
conscience & that I let him off too
easily - & would probably get into trouble
if the whole matter were investigated
in the United States. This will show
you how earnest my wish was to avoid
saying any thing unfavorable to S. T. that

could be avoided. Well, I knew that
J. T. regards me as the great delinquent
against him. The large I should have
written to himself. But the truth is I
could not avoid believing my informants
so many, so various, & all thoroughly
respectable & reliable. In consequence
of Pillsbury's letter, I took something of
the sickening dose out of my remarks &
put them before me.

Well, then, the Advocate was just going
to press on the morning of the 26th when
I came by post the letter from Mr. Bishop.
You will find it at page 242, and
which more than says all that had been
previously printed of S. Thompson. As it
perhaps Mr. Bishop & all our other correspondents
as well as myself I gladly stopped the
press, removed ~~to~~ an article & printed
Mr. Bishop's letter in such good time
that, in about 3 hours after it reached,
my Advocate was on its way to
him with his letter inserted.

Now, knowing you as I do, and how warmly &
fully attached your family are to S. Thompson;
knowing how good his services have been, & how
uncompensatedly trifling my own; I could not
dare to say these things to you if I had not
the full and unshaken that I have acted
in good faith, without malice, without either
the suppression or the ~~suppression~~ suggestion.

felix, so fully charged by Messrs Thompson
& Chubb. My only explanation for
this affair is that Thompson having been
fairly driven to the wall by poverty, &
the difficulty of keeping the wolf from the
door, takes up the English papers in which
of course he must have been huffed, &
as the British & Foreign Committee belong
to that class of affluent &
well-to-do dissenters in whom he needs
only, he tried to get through the conven-
tion with as little offence to them as he
could manage without cheating the
adherents of 21, Lambeth - that he
finds he has made a mistake &
tries to retrieve his position by attaching
himself to the people & talking like
a much injured man of his past
services. Now I leave the matter in
your hands.

My father, aged just 78 $\frac{1}{2}$ died on the
28th of last month. Until within a few
months of his death he had enjoyed excellent
health & was a remarkably hale & well looking
old man. He had good but not strong abilities.
He was remarkable for integrity, unaffectedness,
simplicity of character, benevolence, & great kind-
ness & helpfulness to the poor. He died of
apoplexy & left the world in the most defective
way for an old man, without pain or anxiety.

Ms. A. 9.2.28.38B